1.   **1.** (currently amended) A graphical user interface in a system having at least one memory

2.   device, at least one device for implementing the graphical user interface, and at least one

3.   processor having access to the memory device and the graphical user interface device, the

4.   graphical user interface specifying a~~a~~ one or more predefined actions~~,~~, ~~which modifies~~each

5.   predefined action modifying a value of a record field that is common to records

6.   belonging to a set thereof, the records being stored in the memory devices and the

7.   processor causing the graphical user interface device to generate the graphical user

8.   interface, responding to inputs therefrom, and automatically executing a predefined query

9.   according to a predefined schedule, the predefined query being associated with the

10.   predefined action and returning records belonging to the set,

11.   the graphical user interface comprising:

12.   a window in the graphical user interface device, the window displaying a table

13.   wherein the record field whose value is to be modified by the action has an entry that is

14.   selectable by a user of the graphical user interface, the entry including

15.   a first field of the entry that identifies the record field to be modified by

16.   the action; and

17.   one or more action fields of the entry that, when the user has selected the

18.   entry, the user ~~may set~~sets to specify ~~the~~a particular predefined action in which the

19.   record field identified by the first field of the entry is set to a value which is derived from

20.   a current value of a reference field in the returned record, the reference field being

21.   another field that is common to records belonging to the set thereof,

22.   whereupon, each time the processor automatically executes the predefined query

23.   according to the predefined schedule and the predefined query returns a record that

24.   belongs to the set, the processor ~~modifies the value in the record field in the returned~~

25.   ~~record that is identified by the entry's first field as specified in the one or more action~~

26.   ~~fields of the entry~~performs the particular predefined action.

1.   **2.** (previously presented) The graphical user interface set forth in claim 1 wherein:

2   the values of the record field identified by the entry's first field belong to one of a

3   plurality of types; and

4   the entry's action fields are determined by the type of the identified field's values.

1   **3.** (previously presented) The graphical user interface set forth in claim 2 wherein:

2   the plurality of types include types whose values belong to ordered sets that are

3   defined in the system to which the graphical user interface belongs, types whose values

4   specify times, and types whose values specify persons.

1   **4.** (currently amended) The graphical user interface set forth in claim 1 wherein:

2   the predefined actions include a further predefined action in which ~~the user may~~

3   ~~set~~ the entry's action fields are set by the user to specify that the record field in the

4   returned record that is identified by the entry's first field be cleared,

5   whereupon, each time the processor automatically executes the predefined query

6   according to the predefined schedule and the predefined query returns a record that

7   belongs to the set, the processor performs the further predefined action.

1   **5.** (currently amended) The graphical user interface set forth in claim 1 wherein:

2   the predefined actions include a further predefined action in which ~~the user may~~

3   ~~set~~ the entry's action fields are set by the user to specify a value and to specify that the

4   value be assigned to the record field in the returned record that is identified by the entry's

5   first field, whereupon, each time the processor automatically executes the predefined

6   query according to the predefined schedule and the predefined query returns a record that

7   belongs to the set, the processor performs the further predefined action.

1   **6.** (currently amended) The graphical user interface set forth in claim 1 wherein:

2   the predefined actions include a further predefined action in which ~~when the entry~~

3   ~~is selected, the user may set~~ the entry's action fields are set by the user to specify an

4   operation by which a new value for the record field identified by the entry's first field

5   ~~may be~~is computed from a current value which is the identified record field's value in the

6   returned record when the returned record is returned by the query execution,

7 whereupon, each time the processor automatically executes the predefined query
8 according to the predefined schedule and the predefined query returns a record that
9 belongs to the set, the processor performs the further predefined action.

1 **7.** (currently amended) The graphical user interface set forth in claim 6 wherein:

2 the value of the record field identified by the entry's first field belongs to an
3 ordered set of values; and

4 ~~the user may set~~ in the further predefined action, the action fields are set by the
5 user to specify an increment operation wherein the new value that is assigned to the
6 identified record field's value in the returned record is a value that follows the identified
7 record field's current value in the ordered set of values.

1 **8.** (currently amended) The graphical user interface set forth in claim 1 wherein:

2 the record field identified by the entry's first field ~~may have~~has a null value when
3 the record is returned by the query execution; and

4 ~~the user may set~~ the predefined actions include a first further predefined action in
5 which the entry's action fields are set by the user to specify an action that is to be
6 performed when the identified record field in the returned record has the null value and/or
7 ~~an action~~ second further predefined action that is to be performed when the identified
8 record field in the returned record does not have the null value,
9 whereupon, each time the processor automatically executes the predefined query
10 according to the predefined schedule and the predefined query returns a record that
11 belongs to the set, the processor performs the first further predefined action or the second
12 further predefined action as determined by the value of the identified record field and the
13 settings of the action fields.

1 **9.** (currently amended) The graphical user interface set forth in claim 1 wherein:

2 ~~the user may set the entry's action fields to specify a reference field in the returned~~
3 ~~record which is another field that is common to records belonging to the set therof and a~~
4 ~~reference field operation by which a new value in the returned record for~~the particular
5 predefined action sets the record field identified by the entry's first field to a value which

5

6   ~~may be~~is computed from ~~a~~ the current value of the returned record's reference field~~, the~~

7   ~~current value being the value that the returned record's reference field has when the~~

8   ~~returned record is returned by the query execution~~.

1   **10.** (currently amended) The graphical user interface set forth in claim 9 wherein:

2   in the particular predefined action,~~the record field identified by the entry's first~~

3   ~~field in the returned record may have a null value when the record is returned by the~~

4   ~~query execution; and~~

5   ~~the user may set~~ the action fields are set by the user to specify a first reference

6   field and a first ~~reference field operation that is to be performed~~ manner of computing

7   the value to which the identified record field is to be set from the current value of the first

8   reference field when the identified record field in the returned record has ~~the~~ a null value

9   and/or a second reference field and a second ~~reference field operation that is to be~~

10   ~~performed~~ manner of computing the value to which the identified record field is to be set

11   from the current value of the first reference field when the identified record field in the

12   returned record does not have the null value.

1   **11.** (currently amended) The graphical user interface set forth in claim ~~9~~ 1 wherein:

2   ~~the reference field operation~~ the particular predefined action derives the value to

3   which the identified record field is to be set from the current value of the first reference

4   field by assigning~~assigns~~ the current value of the returned record's reference field to the

5   identified record field in the returned record.

1   **12.** (currently amended) The graphical user interface set forth in claim ~~9~~ 1 wherein:

2   the identified record field and the reference field have time values; and

3   ~~the user may further set~~ in the particular predefined action, the action fields are

4   further set by the user to specify an amount of time by which the reference field's current

5   value is increased or decreased to ~~compute~~ derive the new value for the identified record

6   field.

1   **13.** (currently amended) The graphical user interface set forth in claim 12 wherein:

2   ~~the user may further set~~ the action fields <u>are further set by the user</u> to specify the

3   amount of time in one of a plurality of ways.

1   **14.** (currently amended) The graphical user interface set forth in claim 13 wherein:

2   one of the plurality of ways is days; and

3   when days have been specified, ~~the user may further set~~ the action fields <u>are</u>

4   <u>further set by the user</u> to specify whether the days will be ~~computed~~ <u>derived</u> as business

5   days or calendar days.

1   **15.** (previously presented) The graphical user interface set forth in claim 12 wherein:

2   one of the reference fields is a field whose value is always set to the current time

3   when the query execution returns the returned record.

1   **16.** (currently amended) The graphical user interface set forth in claim 1 wherein:

2   the identified record field has a person value; and

3   ~~the user may set~~ <u>in the predefined action,</u> the entry's action fields <u>are set by the</u>

4   <u>user</u> to specify a role reference field in the returned record from which a new person

5   value for the record field identified by the entry's first field ~~may be~~<u>is</u> obtained, the role

6   reference field being another field common to the record belonging to the set thereof, the

7   role reference field referring to an ordered set of person values wherein one of the person

8   values is a last-used person value, and the role reference field in the returned record being

9   set to the next person value following the last-used person value at the time the returned

10   record is returned by the query execution and the value of the identified record field in

11   the returned record being set from the value of the role reference field in the returned

12   record.

1   **17.** (canceled)

1   **18.** (previously presented) The graphical user interface set forth in claim 16 wherein:

2   another action has been specified which assigns the person reference field a value

3   from a role reference field; and

4   when the returned record is returned by the query execution, actions which assign

5   person fields values from role reference fields are performed prior to other actions.

1   **19.** (currently amended) The graphical user interface set forth in claim ~~16~~ 1 wherein:

2   ~~the user may further set~~ the predefined actions include a further predefined action

3   in which the action fields are set by the user to directly specify a person value,

4   whereupon, each time the processor automatically executes the predefined query

5   according to the predefined schedule and the predefined query returns a record that

6   belongs to the set, the processor performs the further predefined action ~~the identified~~

7   ~~record field in the returned record being set from the directly-specified person value when~~

8   ~~the returned record is returned by the query execution.~~